

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Tretheway Block

and/or common Argonaut Hotel

2. Location

street & number 229 East Weber Street ___ not for publication

city, town Stockton n/a vicinity of congressional district 18th

state California code 06 county San Joaquin code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dynovest Inc., Wilbur Bigelow

street & number 2209 Coffee Road, Suite E

city, town Modesto n/a vicinity of state California 95355

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Joaquin County Courthouse

street & number 222 E. Weber

city, town Stockton state California 95202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title California State Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 5/11/79 ___ federal state ___ county local

depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation P.O. Box 2390

city, town Sacramento state California 95811

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> n/a </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

currently being rehabilitated

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Tretheway Block building is a rectangular brick structure, approximately three and one-half stories in height, that has a highly decorative facade beneath a projecting parapet. The structure fronts on an important downtown Stockton street, is flanked by shorter brick structures on either side, and on the rear partially overlooks the access lot of a small bank. The 50' x 85' building has essentially retained its integrity and occupies, in its original location, the southern 85' of the original 250' deep parcel.

The facade of the first story is divided by decorative cast iron columns into shop window areas that flank a central entry to the upper floors. There are transoms above the shop windows. Ground floor offices with recessed entries occupy the shop areas. This arrangement and use of space is original to the building and has been retained. The main entry leads up a stairway to the second floor hallway, providing access to individual offices and a central lightwell with a decorative oval skylight.

Two three-story arched and partially domed bays project on the east and west sides of the street facade, and flank a series of three narrower arched window bays. Elaborate and exuberant three dimensional reliefs of zinc ornament the spandrel and lunette areas of the arches. Colonettes define the window divisions of the projecting bays. The partial domes of the larger two bays are ribbed and surfaced in overlapping sheets of iron. The arched bays are framed at the top by molded bands of sandstone, and punctuated between the arches with small rosettes. The cornice is supported by a series of small corbelled arches divided by four decorated vertical projections which are capped with elaborate foliated ornament. The faces of these vertical projections have an arch, a floral design similar to that of the spandrel panels, and a geometric pattern. Three dimensional foliage also covers the base and caps at the top of the projections.

Interior features of note include the oval skylight and the interior stairwell it lights. Both elements will be retained and restored.

The structure originally held a projecting parapet of stone with balustrades and a panel containing the name of the structure. This parapet fell during the 1906 earthquake, and the caps of the originally taller projections were repositioned upon the projections at the cornice line.

The original wood sash of the facade windows, replaced by windows with aluminum sash in an earlier remodeling, will be restored in wood. The central bay once contained two vertical panels of brick laid in a pattern rather than the windows it now holds. The date of this change is unknown.

The rear of the structure has experienced some alterations. It has been partially stuccoed, and an addition now projects from the rear at the west end. Windows have also been altered.

The rehabilitation work includes a restoration of the ground floor with the replacement of inappropriately installed windows and the uncovering and restoration of transoms. Several layers of paint will be removed from the cast iron columns to reveal the ornamentation. Deteriorating ornament on the face of the building will be restored. Old layers of paint will be removed and the building repainted as closely as possible to the original color scheme. The interior will be rehabilitated and missing wainscoting areas and wood moldings replaced.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1892 Builder/Architect not known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1892 for wealthy farmer John Tretheway, the Tretheway Block/Argonaut Hotel derives its primary significance from its distinctive architectural values. The eclectic structure is an unusual interpretation of the Queen Anne style, with some Romanesque and Moorish influences. It has a strong design image and its fine ornamentation enriches the textural quality, not only of the building itself, but of the streetscape that contains it. Its composition and use of decorative design components are suggestive of the late-nineteenth century work of the Philadelphia architect Frank Furness. The design of the structure is unique to the area, and the building is an important component of the old downtown area of Stockton.

The Tretheway Block building incorporates several unusual design elements. The structure is a highly individualized expression of Queen Anne styling. Its most idiosyncratic design aspects suggest Moorish architectural influences. These elements include the two large three-story bays with partial domes that flank three smaller arched bays, the banding bordering the arches, and the series of small corbelled arches that extend across the facade at the cornice. The ribbed domes and the enframing banding are particularly reflective of Moorish architectural themes, while the corbelled arches and vertical projections that punctuate that series have Romanesque characteristics.

The composition of the structure is also highly unusual. The end bays dominate the facade and provide a counterpoint to the smaller arched bays in the center. The dynamic interplay of disparate forms and positive/negative spaces gives the building compositional vitality. There is also an interesting interplay of scale between the corbelled arches and arched bays. Other unusually scaled elements are the three-dimensional floral patterns in zinc, mounted in the spandrel panels between the second and third floors, above the third floor windows, and in the lunette panels above the central window bays. The floral elements seem almost overscaled in comparison to the other major design features. The distinctive ribs and overlapping metal sheets of the partial domes, the complicated character of the floral panels and the cornice decoration are richly textural, creating surface patterns that heighten the three-dimensional quality of the building's facade.

The 1906 loss of the facade superstructure above the cornice has tended to strengthen the building's design by eliminating a parapet that projected disproportionately above the front of the structure.

The building is an important visual component of downtown Stockton. Its design, massing and height make it a major and complimentary element of the city streetscape. It also serves as an important remnant of the early fabric of the city, much of which has disappeared.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .34 acre

Quadrangle name Stockton West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	6	5	0	4	8	0	4	2	0	1	6	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Boghosian

organization Historic Environment Cons. date November 13, 1981

street & number 2306 J Street telephone (916) 446-2447

city or town Sacramento state California 95816

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature R. Miller

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/29/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Delores Bryan
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 10/29/82

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration: _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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The design of the structure, with its stylistic references and unusual composition, is unique in this area. Although it was not an uncommon practice during the late or high Victorian era to combine motifs from apparently disparate architectural styles and incorporate them into the current stylistic favorite (often Queen Anne), other structures of the same era in Stockton and the nearby cities of Lodi and Modesto generally reflect a less flamboyant stylistic approach. The Tretheway Block is an unusual and very individualistic representative of such decorative bents in a region generally more conservative in its architectural expressions.

The structure's historic associations are minor. Constructed by a wealthy farmer, John Tretheway, the Tretheway Block building originally held both offices and lodging rooms on the upper floors, and a hardware store on the ground floor. As downtown housing needs increased, the lodging facilities in the building increased. The structure retained some ground floor commercial uses with lodging rooms upstairs until approximately 1925 when the "Tretheway House" became the Hotel Argonaut. It continued to serve as the Hotel Argonaut until the mid 1970's when the structure was closed. Tretheway's nephew and two business associates began the first hardware store to occupy the building, in 1892. By 1906, the Ruhl-Goodell Co., also a hardware firm, had taken over the original Tretheway store, with Edward Tretheway serving that firm as Supervisor and bookkeeper. After 1910, various small businesses such as collection agencies and cigar manufacturers occupied the ground floor commercial area. The use of second floor rooms for office space appears to have ceased after 1906.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Alexander, Herbert, California State Historic Resources Inventory Form,
5/11/79

Bigelow, Wilbur, Nomination for Designation as a Historic Landmark, Cultural Heritage Board, Stockton, California, 4/20/81

City Directories, 1896,1900,1906,1910,1915,1920,1925,1930,1935,1940,1945,
1950,1955,1960,1965

Pioneer Museum & Haggin Galleries, Tretheway Block on Weber Ave. between Hunter and San Joaquin about 1895. Photograph

Stockton Daily Independent, 3/10/1892, p.3

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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The parcel number for the property is 139-120-07. The structure is 85' x 50' and stands on a lot 100' deep that was originally 250' deep. The parcel now additionally includes a 57' x 100' adjacent property to the west of the original 50' x 250' lot. The portion of the current parcel nominated is 50' x 100', containing the 50' x 85' building, the eastern third of Lot 8 (8), in Block Sixty-four (64), East of Center, in the City of Stockton, according to the Official Map, San Joaquin County Records.

EAST OF CENTER

BLOCK 71

13

60 CHANNEL (200)

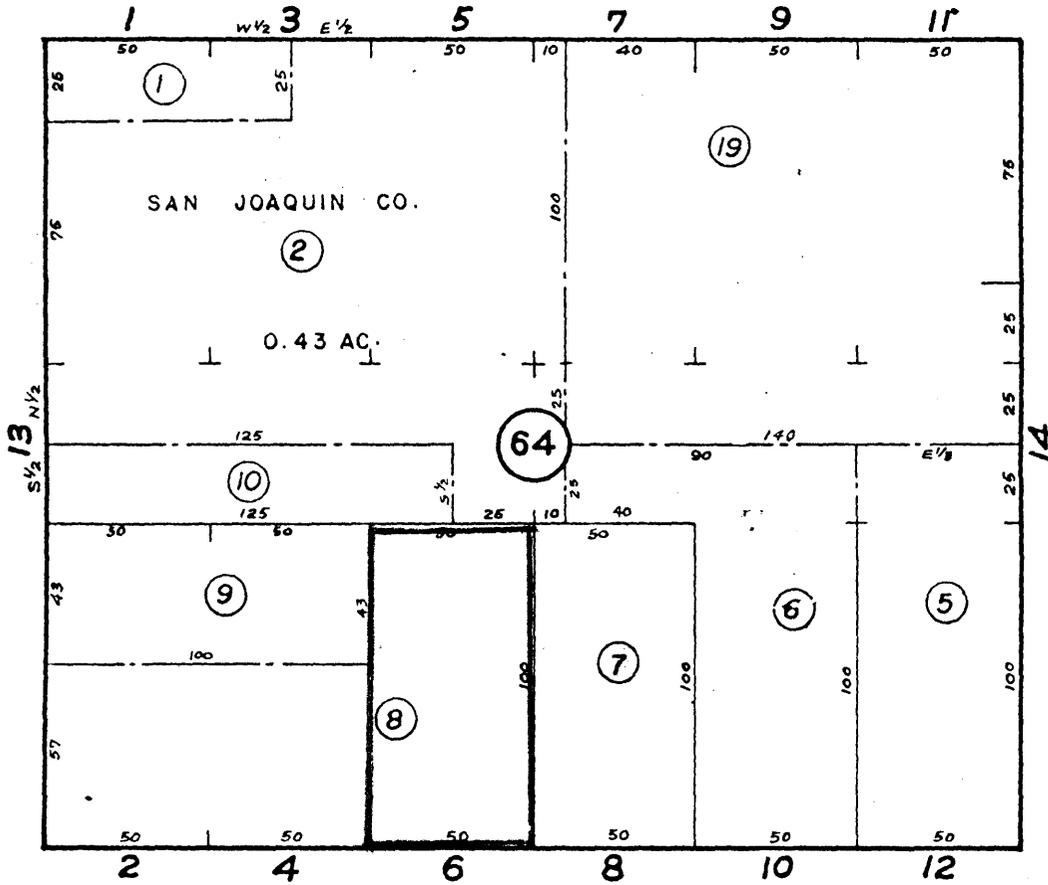
STREET

80 STREET

(100)

HUNTER

80



80 STREET

SAN JOAQUIN

80

Tretheway Block/Argonaut Hotel
 Stockton, CA, San Joaquin County
 Assessor Map, 229 E. Weber
 Historic Environment Consultants
 11/13/81

dated
 1-74 18917
 3866 Pg. 247

110 WEBER

COURT HOUSE

BK. 149

EAST OF CENTER



EAST OF CENTER

BLOCKS 64 & 65

SCALE 1"=60'

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
ASSESSOR'S MAPS

WESTERN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY
 THIS IS NOT A SURVEY OF THE LOTS, BUT IS COMPILED
 FROM DATA SHOWN BY THE PUBLIC RECORDS

NOTE: Original dimensions are Stockton City
 Standard-By U.S. Standard, lots average
 50.50' X 101.1' and 50.50' X 151.50'